Contact: Jeff Fucci, Communications Specialist
               (201) 460-2002   jeff.fucci@njmeadowlands.gov

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NJMC Upgrades Unique Municipal Mapping Service

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The NJMC Board of Commissioners today allocated $80,000 to upgrade the NJMC's Geographic Information System and licenses.

"Through our ongoing partnership with municipal leaders, the ever-evolving GIS system has kept the Meadowlands District ahead of the technology curve," said NJMC Executive Director Robert Ceberio. "This valuable mapping technology has helped the Meadowlands municipalities increase the safety, security, and quality of life of their residents."

The GIS system, currently seven years old, will be optimized to handle a steadily increasing demand of mapping requests from zoning inspectors, tax assessors, fire fighters, police, emergency management personnel and other municipal officials who utilize the system to enhance the services they provide.

The upgraded system will provide a state-of-the-art database capable of effectively networking with map applications on the world wide web, including Google Maps and Google Earth. It will also enhance the GIS functionality as a regional shared service, and allow individual municipalities to submit and edit their own data. It will also increase the system's capacity to archive and maintain all spatial records from daily permitting operations of the NJMC, and its utilization in-house by planners, engineers, environmental and public outreach professionals.

GIS staff from the NJMC's Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (MERI) routinely train municipal officials and first responders in the use of the technology with customized manuals, tests, fieldwork, and refresher courses. Staff also provides Global Positioning System training to municipal officials and lends equipment capable of plotting the coordinates of key infrastructure, including stormwater outfalls, utilities and traffic signs.

The NJMC has allocated $25,000 for each of the 14 municipalities to come online with GIS, as well as $25,000 to provide each with a tablet PC. Currently, 13 of the 14 Meadowlands municipalities have received the hardware, software and training to use the

digital mapping technology, which includes lot information, building locations and footprints, sewer line locations, fire hydrant locations, flood hazard areas, right-to-know data and hazardous material locations. The City of Jersey City is expected to be online by early 2008.

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